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PATENTS
VS-42

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicants : Todd A. Berg et al.
Application No. : 09/550,471
Filed : April 14, 2000
For : ARTIFICIAL HEART VALVE ATTACHMENT
APPARATUS AND METHODS
Group Art Unit : 3738

New York, New York 10020
July 17, 2000

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, applicant hereby makes the following documents of record in the above-identified patent application:

U.S. Patent Documents

Shiley U.S. Patent 3,686,740 (August 29, 1972)
Taheri U.S. Patent 5,824,064 (October 20, 1998)
Ahn U.S. Patent 5,843,170 (December 1, 1998)
Goldsteen et al. U.S. Patent 5,976,178 (Nov. 2, 1999)

Foreign Patent Documents

German DE 196 05 042 A (January 15, 1998)

PCT Patent WO 97/10757 (March 27, 1997)
PCT Patent WO 99/04724 (February 2, 1999)
PCT Patent WO 99/18887 (April 22, 1999)
PCT Patent WO 99/56665 (November 11, 1999)

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A copy of the aforementioned documents, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (submitted in duplicate), are enclosed herewith.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to co-pending commonly-assigned patent applications 08/839,199, 08/946,742, 09/016,721, 09/187,335, 09/187,362 and 09/186,774. The Examiner's attention is also drawn to the a copy of the European Search Report which is also enclosed.

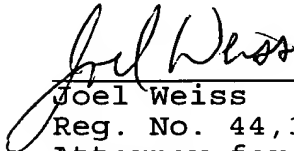
It is respectfully requested that these documents be (1) fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application; and (2) printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicant requests that a copy of Form PTO-1449, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next communication.

If any fee or overpayment is due on this application, please charge the fee or credit the overpayment to deposit account 06-1075. A copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith.


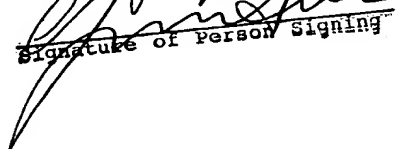


An early and favorable action is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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